Enough! “I am Generation Equality”- My vision now! International Youth Day Celebration

Biographies

Master of ceremony - Zozibini Tunzi, Miss Universe @zozitunzi, @missuniverse

Zozi is a passionate activist engaged in the fight against gender-based violence. As an ardent support of #HeForShe, Zozi hopes to bring men into the activist space to help bring about equality. Zozi had previously been crowned Miss South Africa 2019. Her message to young women to “take up space” during the competition spurred global recognition from everyone from Oprah to Michelle Obama. Prior to winning the title, Zozi was working at a prestigious public relations firm in South Africa and had previously worked in landscape architecture.

Satoko Yamaguchi, YWCA of Japan - @satoko181

Satoko Yamaguchi is a member of the UN Women Beijing+25 Youth Task Force and a program coordinator at YWCA of Japan, where she organizes various programs and campaigns to empower young women and girls in Japan. She coordinates a program called “Japan-Korea Youth Conference” that aims to raise awareness among youth from both countries on gender equality issues. She also gives lectures on social and gender issues at junior and senior high schools and universities in Japan.

Munnira Katongole, Adolescent girl activist, @afrikanmunnira

Munnira Katongole - meaning the light of Afrika - is a 17 years old South African activist fighting for social change and climate justice. She wanted to develop her own personal understanding of the climate crisis and educate people on the intersections between poverty and climate change. Munnira is part of the South African Institute of International Affairs’ Youth Policy Committee on climate which has drafted declarations from a youth perspective and recommendations which have been presented to the Government and at the COP 25 conference.

Kathy Kyler, Adolescent girl activist

Kayla is a 17 year-old girl activist from Kenya. After losing her mother at a very young age, her father tried to force her into marriage and a neighbor reported the case to her school. She was then placed in a children’s home in Kibera. Kayla is now an orphan but fights for the empowerment of young girls in her community, sharing her empowering story and raising awareness on the importance of girls’ education and the destructive effects of forced and early marriage on women and girls.
International Youth Day Celebration – August 12th 2020

Ayanna Depas, Grammy Award winning recording engineer @yanniappleseedz

Ayanna or ‘Yanni’, is a Grammy Award Winning Recording-Engineer and Mixing-Engineer based out of New York working with artists like H.E.R., Tiara Thomas, Dave East and many others. She has built a name for herself and has become one of New York’s more in-demand freelance audio engineers.

Musical performance by Maia Reficco Viqueira – @maiareficco

Maia Reficco is an Argentinean-American singer, songwriter and actress. She is best known for her role as “Kally” in the Nickelodeon series “Kally’s Mashup”, for which she was nominated for numerous awards. On stage, she most recently starred as "Young Eva" in the Encores! production of EVITA at New York City Center. She studied at the Berklee College of Music’s Young Performers Program.

Video by the Beijing +25 Youth Task Force @Beijing25youth

The Beijing +25 Youth Task Force is the main advisory body for youth issues in the UN Women Beijing+25 process and Generation Equality Forum. It comprises 30 young leaders from different youth-led and youth-serving organizations, with diverse expertise from across the world. The existing youth leaders have a track record of driving change in their communities and mobilizing young people for the empowerment of young women and girls all over the world and they guide UN Women in global processes to consult and engage young people across the globe.

Message from Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka - Executive Director, UN Women @phumzileunwomen

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She was sworn into office on 19 August 2013 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa.
International Youth Day Celebration – August 12th 2020

Spoken Word “I am Africa” 25 May Movement @the25maymovement

The 25 May Movement is a collective of artists, community organisers, social workers and cultural producers who are collaborating to lead social change in Africa. Through programming, capacity building and community-led initiatives, the organisation is tackling the United Nations’ sustainable development goals through a theory of change model that puts cultural practice and creative expression at the core.

Video on racial justice Saneliso Dube @tyrantina

Saneliso “Sunny” Dube is a 20 year old game designer and writer currently living in Canada. She is currently studying game design at Sheridan College in Ontario and has a passion for changing the world through interactive mediums.

Moderator panel on Social Justice: Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General Envoy on Youth @jayathmadw @UNYouthEnvoy

Jayathma was appointed as the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth in June 2017 at the age of 26. In this role, Jayathma works to expand the UN’s youth engagement and advocacy efforts across all four pillars of work – sustainable development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action – and serves as a representative of and advisor to the Secretary-General. Originally from Sri Lanka, Jayathma has worked extensively on youth development and participation, and has played a key role in transforming the youth development sector in her home country.

Inés Yábar, Sustainability activist - @InesYabar

Inés Yábar, a Peruvian sustainability activist, combines her studies, volunteering and job to continue learning, sharing and acting towards a more sustainable future. She is one of the founders of Ensemble pour TECHO, an organization seeking to eradicate poverty by raising awareness and funds towards the efforts done by TECHO in South America. She was also recently part of the Peruvian delegation to the UN Conference of Parties in Madrid.

Samantha Paige Davis, Black Swan Academy Founder & Executive Director @samanthapaigeme

Samantha is the founder of the Black Swan Academy that seeks to develop Civic Leadership out-of-school time programs, serving 42 students weekly and organizing community outreach efforts, reaching 1,200 District residents. She also creates trainings for volunteers, parents, and administrators on youth development, advocacy and racial justice. Her aim is to forge strategic partnerships with funders, corporations, universities, non-profits and community-led groups to enhance BSA’s mission and priorities.
Vanessa Nakate - Youth Climate justice activist
@vanessa_vash

Vanessa Nakate is a Ugandan climate justice activist. She grew up in Kampala and started her activism in December 2018 after becoming concerned about the unusually high temperatures in her country. For several months she was the lone protestor outside of the gates of the Parliament of Uganda. Vanessa was one of a handful of youth activists to speak at the COP25 in 2019 and at the World Economic Forum in Davos, calling on companies, banks and governments to immediately stop subsidizing fossil fuels.

Greg Keal - @digsconnect

Greg Keal is the co-founder and marketing director at DigsConnect.com, Africa’s largest student accommodation platform, which was started a direct response to the annual student accommodation shortages in South Africa. Today DigsConnect.com has more than 75 000 beds listed across South Africa, and connects thousands of students and landlords each year. Greg used his position at DigsConnect.com to co-author and publish ‘The State of Student Housing in South Africa Report 2020’ which shed light on the corruption and inefficiencies in the South African accommodation space.

Musical Performance – Manizha – I am who I am - @manizha

Manizha is a singer and civil right activist from Tajikistan. Manizha created “SILSILA” an app with a SOS button and a list of crisis centers for the domestic violence victims. Manizha knows too well about hardships of a refugee life as her family ran away to Russia from a Civil War in Tajikistan, so she strongly supports and always participated in UNHCR projects. She was featured in Russian Forbes’ “Top 30 under 30”. She promotes gender equality, tolerance and body positivity through her music.

Message of hope: Aya Chebbi, African Union Envoy on Youth - @aya_chebbi

Aya Chebbi, an award-winning Pan-African feminist. She is the first African Union Youth Envoy and the youngest diplomat at the African Union Commission Chairperson’s Cabinet. She is the founder of multiple platforms such as Youth Programme of Holistic Empowerment Mentoring (Y-PHEM) coaching the next generation to be positive change agents, Afrika Youth Movement (AYM), one of Africa’s largest Pan-African youth-led movements and Afresist, a youth leadership program and multimedia platform documenting youth work in Africa.
Musical performance “Funk 4 Peace”, Yvonne H. Chow & The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory - @yvonnehchow

Yvonne is the Director of Operations and Education Director of H+ | The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory. She started professionally training in Hip-Hop Dance via The BLADE Dance Technique® (S. Thomas, 1995) in 2007 under the mentorship of H+ | Founder & Artistic Director Safi Thomas. She was appointed to President Pro-Tempore of BLADE Dance Entertainment and then shifted her work to overseeing the pedagogical standards of the conservatory as Education Director for the past decade.

Moderator panel on Peace and Security: Hajer Sharief – Libyan human rights advocate

Hajer Sharief, is a 25 years old Libyan human rights advocate and the co-founder of “Together we build it”, Hajer promotes the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding efforts in Libya. She was selected by the UN Secretary-General to serve as a member of the Advisory Group of Experts for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security mandated by UNSCR 2250. Hajer is also one of the twelve UN Women Champions on Women, Peace, Security and Human Rights.

Fatima Yerima Askira, Founder/Executive Director of Borno Women Development Initiative - @Fatiskra

Fatima Yerima Askira is the Founder/Executive Director of Borno Women Development Initiative, a registered NGO that aims to empower women to play a constructive role in creating a peaceful and ignorant-free environment. Fatima is a member of African Women Leadership Network (AWLN), and the Secretary of AWLN Nigeria Chapter. Fatima is also a member of FEMWISE-Africa, promoting the participation of young women in peace processes. She leads an innovative mentoring program for Nigerian youths, including rescued victims of Boko Haram.

Juanita Ibanez Santamaria, Colombian political scientist - @juanitaibanez

Juanita Ibanez is a Colombian political scientist from the University of Florida with a masters in Latin American Studies from Columbia University in New York and more than 9 years of experience working for women’s rights, victims’ rights and human rights within the armed conflict in Colombia. She has served different mayors, governors and presidents in an effort to bring reparation to victims of the armed conflict. Specifically, she is passionate about working for collective reparation of women grassroot groups highly impacted by war, displacement and violence. She was one of the youngest person to lead the national collective reparation program in Colombia impacting more than 700 communities across the country.
International Youth Day Celebration – August 12th 2020

Mallika Iyer, Program Officer for The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders - @gnwp_gnwp

Mallika Iyer is a Program Officer for The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and the focal point for Asia. She is responsible for the coordination of GNWP’s Young Women Leaders for Peace program in Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Mallika is also involved in strengthening, monitoring, and globally advocating for the implementation of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) resolutions and the Sustaining Peace Agenda along with improving synergies between CEDAW and WPS reporting.

Musical Performance - Malkia the band – "Africa" by Yemi Alade featuring Sauti Sol. Chemutai, Osa, Gayle-@malkiatheband

Malkia The Band is comprised of 3 talented African women - Chemutai, Osa and Gayle - with a common passion for music. The group was formed in October 2018 when the three members joined the African Leadership Academy. They recently graduated from the institution. Since its inception, the group has performed Anzisha Prize Awards - a platform that recognizes young African entrepreneurs and many others.

Musical performance “Fire on Fire” Maria Brodskaya - @ambemusic

Masha Brodskaya (ÂMBE) is an NYC-based Grammy-recognized artist, composer, producer, multi-instrumentalist & singer. VR music pioneer, innovator, educator, entrepreneur. A winner of “The Independent Music Awards”. In her creative work she has been bridging electronic and classical music with Virtual & Augmented Realities, as well as Neuroscience.

Credits:

This celebration was organized by UN Women in collaboration with ITU.

We wish to thank all young people who contributed to this celebration through music, spoken word, dance and messages of hope.

Special thanks to:

Civil Society Division, UN Women
Generation Equality Forum
Office of the Secretary-General’s Youth Envoy

Biographies speakers
International Youth Day Celebration – August 12th 2020

Office of the African Union Youth Envoy
Beijing +25 Youth Task Force

Video, Sound & Music Audio

Atractor Estudio - Video production and editing
Masha Brodskaya (ÂMBE) — Music Producer
Brian Forbes — Music & Audio Producer

Video Contributors:

Eliyah Seton — President of Independent Music & Creator Services at Warner Music Group
Hyphen Hub
Juan Paz — Managing Director, ADA Latin at Warner Music Group
Malkia Band
Miss Universe
Saneliso Dube — Social movements video
Zahra Al Hilaly - Message of hope: The Beijing+25 Youth Task Force
25 May Movement

Appearances:

Video by the Beijing +25 Youth Task Force @Beijing25youth
In the respective order of appearance:
Katherine Dibbon (Canada), Zahra Al Hilaly (Australia), Ilayda Eskitaşcioğlu (Turkey), Anika Jane Dorothy (Kenya), Juan Pablo Poli (Argentina), Pip Gardner (United Kingdom)

Spoken Word “I am Africa” 25 May Movement @the25maymovement
Performers: Samantha Takaindisa, Elizabeth Banda, Tapiwa Gambura, Moudie Nyamadzawo, Rufaro Kasukuwere, Chido Charimari, Kudzai Ganda, Tandzile Chindove, Liane Nyamarebvu, Tanatsei Gambura, Ruvimbo Musakwa, Kumbirai Mataure, Tadiwa Mpala, Kudakwashe Madongorere Ndhlela, Tasha, Mitchell Chatitiyara;
Writer and Director: Tanatsei Gambura;
Director of Photography: Emmanuel Gumiremhete;

Musical performance “Funk 4 Peace”, Yvonne H. Chow & The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory - @yvonnehchow

Introduction to the film:
Founded by Philanthropist, Educator, and Choreographer Safi A. Thomas, H+ | The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory is the only dance NGO with Special Consultative Status at the United Nations' ECOSOC. H+ is in the mission of building what they dub, Dance Sustainability® for their civil society of Hip-Hop, dancers, and artists. From the UN Civil Society Conference to UN Women’s Youth Mobilization Spaces, H+ has been advocating for the necessary intersectionality of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the dance community. They are honored to contribute a message of hope to UN Women’s International Day of Youth 2020 called "Funk 4 Peace," a dance advocacy film produced by their in-house media
company, AK47 Division, featuring amazing dancers from all around the world! To learn more and get involved, connect with H+ on IG or FB @hiphopdanceconservatory.

Special Thanks to Atractor Estudio for editing the event video!
Atractor Estudio is an interdisciplinary studio based in Bogota, Colombia and active since 2017, their work has focused on interactive installations, electronic plastic sculptures and immersive live presentations, all inspired by scientific paradigms and that invite reflection on the phenomena that surround us.

www.atractor.org